

**TESTIMONY OF JIM COWGILL
TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE
DALLAS, TEXAS - MAY 9, 1997
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND POWER
U. S. REPRESENTATIVE DAN SCHAEFER**

REPRESENTATIVE SCHAEFER AND DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE
CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE:

MY NAME IS JIM **COWGILL**. I AM A RESIDENT OF DALLAS, TEXAS. FIRST LET ME EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRECIATION TO YOU FOR **ALLOWING** ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS HEARING. I **WILL** TRY TO KEEP MY COMMENTS WITHIN THE ALLOWED TIME LIMIT, AND I **WILL** CONFINE MY STATEMENTS TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE OF "DEREGULATION OF THE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY."

I AM A MEMBER OF THE "TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE," REPRESENTING DALLAS COUNTY. AT-LARGE DISTRICT. I AM ALSO A SILVER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE "NATIONAL SILVER HAIRED CONGRESS," TEXAS, DISTRICT 30.

MY TESTIMONY TODAY **WILL** CENTER AROUND THIS LEGISLATIVE ISSUE FROM BOTH OF THESE TWO SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATIVE BODIES. DURING THE TSHL AND THE NSHC LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS BOTH BODIES DEVELOPED AND APPROVED RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH THE ELECTRIC INDUSTRY DEREGULATION. BOTH BODIES OPPOSED DEREGULATION (COPIES OF THE RESOLUTIONS ARE ATTACHED).

THE TSHL AND THE NSHC OPPOSITION TO DEREGULATION IS BASED ON PROTECTION OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS AND OTHER INDIVIDUAL ELECTRIC POWER CUSTOMERS. PROTECTION DOES NOT INDICATE PROBABLE FAILURE OF THE ELECTRIC COMPANIES TO PROVIDE QUALITY ELECTRIC SERVICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS.

THE PRIMARY CONCERNS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED BY OUR CONSTITUENTS ARE UNCERTAINTY OF FAIRNESS IN PROVIDING THE SERVICE TO INDIVIDUALS AND LARGE INDUSTRIAL USERS EQUALLY, AND AT AN EQUITABLE PRICE STRUCTURE. WE CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT THE BIGGER USERS TO RECEIVE THE CHEAP POWER, WHILE THE SMALL HOMEOWNER'S, ESPECIALLY OUR SENIOR CITIZENS AND THE POOR, GET STUCK WITH PAYING OFF A LARGER SHARE OF THE ELECTRIC UTILITIES INVESTMENTS.

FINALLY. **WE** FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AT THE LOCAL STATE LEVEL. AS YOU MAY KNOW, TEXAS, AND I AM SURE OTHER STATES. ARE CONSIDERING DEREGULATION AS WE SPEAK.

I WILL CLOSE BY SAYING THAT THE ISSUE OF ELECTRIC DEREGULATION NEEDS MUCH MORE STUDY. AND IF COMPETITION IS A GOAL, WE FEEL THAT IT IS THERE NOW AND WE CAN SEE NOTHING BUT A LOSE-LOSE SITUATION IN DEREGULATION AT THIS TIME